

The Old Shop

By
JAMES SCOLLARD

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Peter Lessard sat down wearily beside Clarice, his wife. "Yes, it's what we expected," he said. "I've got a week's notice. And that's called a concession. They generally don't give notice at all."

Clarice looked round the dingy flat and sighed. Their four years of married life had begun so happily, and threatened to end—nowhere.

Peter had dropped from a position on a literary staff, at fifty dollars a week, to a job as a semi-skilled workman, at twenty-two. And their needs and tastes were those of the sixty-dollar people.

"I can't blame Gough & Co.," said Peter. "The day of the unapprenticed man has gone. I'm about the only man in the shop who knows the trade from its foundations; but I wasn't apprenticed and I can't get a union card. And Gough & Co. are going to employ only union labor. That's all, except that they're the last of the big firms to follow the lead. I'll have to hunt day jobs in the foundries now."

"You shan't!" cried Clarice, flinging her arms about her husband's neck. "Peter, dear, last night I dreamed that you were all back at the old place, working as you used to do. It's a good sign, dear."

Peter laughed mirthlessly. "No chance of that," he answered. "They



He saw a Brand New Sign Over the Old Doorway.

have my address. They'd have written if there were any chance of starting up again."

"Go down, dear, and see if there's any chance of their resuming."

Peter laughed mirthlessly. "I guess the little old place changed hands long ago," he answered.

Clarice sighed. That was just like Peter, waiting upon events. He never did have initiative.

At twenty-two Peter had entered the employment of the Babbitt Electrical company. It was a small concern and being crowded out by more prosperous rivals. However, Babbitt had an idea, and he had put all his resources into it.

There was a certain process for cheapening carbons, on which a dozen men had been working independently for years. It was a highly technical affair and Babbitt had a score of trusted employees in his works busy upon the scheme. But the hitch was soon found. In order to bring it to perfection it was necessary to study all the metallurgical writings of the modern German scientists.

Now, German scientists are the only men who pursue the minutiae of chemical investigations for their theoretical advantages. Perhaps ten men had described the process, without reference to its practical application. Scattered through German literature, Babbitt knew for certain, were descriptions of the new carbon process. These had to be translated, brought together, analyzed and reapplied. Peter had had a German mother. He knew the language. He had some literary gift and a good education. And for year after year he had pored over these books, translating, piecing together, until the secret was within Babbitt's grasp.

Then Babbitt's money gave out and the whole thing was abandoned. Babbitt had only one comfort. Nobody else was likely to hit on the solution. Nobody else had attacked the problem from the same angle, and without this careful spadework success was impossible.

And Peter, who might have taken his gleanings to any of the dozen competitors of Babbitt, and made a fortune, was either too stupid or too honest, or probably both.

Next day he found a letter from Gough & Co., dropping him and enclosing a week's wages. He started out to hunt for a job. He hunted four days. Everywhere it was the same story. Only union men were wanted.

Peter tramped the city from end to end. Work seemed impossible to attain. It was on the fifth day that he suddenly realized he had come within a block of Babbitt's old place. Curiously, he strolled toward it.

He had heard that it had changed hands; yet now, to his surprise, he saw a brand new sign, "Babbitt & Co.," over the dingy old doorway, and, stepping forward to look, he was surprised to see that the foundry was running again, just as it used to do.

The wild hope came to him that there might be a job there after all. It was not likely any of the old staff remained; but Peter had to get something; if they wanted only union men he would go as night watchman or porter—anything. He walked up the

stairs and tapped at the door of the private office.

As nobody answered he walked in. He heard a hum of voices suddenly cut short; he was conscious of a stir and bustle, and then he looked up in amazement, to see that things were just as they had been years before. All the old staff were in their places. There was old Jones the superintendent, and the supervisor, Simpson, with little Cosgrove, and Brown, and Backman. And at the window, just where he used to sit, was his own desk, vacant.

There was a hush of surprise, and then in a moment everybody was on their feet and running toward him. Old Jones was wringing his hands hard and shouting:

"It's Peter. It's Peter come back to us!"

Peter stared in bewilderment at the welcoming faces, the outstretched hands. Simpson snatched up a sheet of notepaper and held it in front of him. "That's how much we think of you," he shouted. And Peter read:

"If Peter Lessard, formerly of 19 Scott street, will communicate with the place of his former employment, he may learn of something to his advantage."

As Peter laid it down Jones grasped him by the arm. "Don't say you're going to stay with your present job," he yelled. "Babbitt is willing to pay you anything. He wants you, and he says we've got to get you, no matter at what price, because there may be men with your brains, but there isn't one with your brains and honesty. For the Lord's sake, Peter, open your mouth and speak. How about it?"

"No, I haven't got a job," muttered Peter.

"Then you're coming back to us? You can start in today?"

"Do you mean to say the old shop has opened?" inquired Peter.

"You didn't know? Then what brought you in here? Mr. Babbitt's got the whole gang together again. He has all the backing he needs, and he's going to have that process just as fast as you can pick it out of the books. It's a three years' contract for all of us, Peter. We tried to get you, but you had moved, and, as you know, it wasn't a matter we could make free inquiries about, with all those wolves on the scent. What brought you here, if you didn't know, Peter?"

"I guess I did know, in a sort of way," said Peter. And he realized that he had known, as Clarice had known. For every dream comes true for a man, sooner or later, when a woman wishes it hard enough.

GIVE EVERY MAN DUE CREDIT

Boost That Has a String to It, No Matter for What Reason, Is Mean and Unworthy.

"Oh, yes, he is a fine fellow, but do you know who his father is?" You have heard it said many times, but could anything be meaner?

When a man goes wrong his sisters and his brothers, and his children, particularly, should not be made to bear the brunt of his misdeeds.

Each and all of us have a hard enough time keeping in the straight and narrow path without a double handicap in the shape of our weak relatives.

Give every man credit for the real good he does.

Don't limit your praise with "that is more than could be expected considering his parentage."

Be charitable and fair enough to forget the drawbacks and give your compliments without disparagement.

Every family has its black sheep, if the truth were known, and would give anything in this world to save the erring one.

As you want to shield the sinner in your own fold, forget the sinning in the flock next door.

It is a rule which works both ways. Give every man full praise without a handicap.—Chicago Examiner.

Where Man Makes Poor Showing.

A casual study of the animal creation, in the majority of species, will show how utterly thoughtless is man compared with the ant or bee. These little creatures are fully awakened to the value of time. Their lives are of short duration, and they have intelligence sufficient to appreciate the value of every moment. No place for drones among them! Beasts of prey, and many others in their natural state, divide their time between action and rest—they are always at work or asleep. Waking hours are wholly devoted to pursuit of prey for sustenance of life. The human animal, to the reproach of our natures be it said, finds time heavy on his hands when he has a hundred channels of occupation open to him that the inferior creature has not.

The Best Philanthropy.

Be sure that you give the poor the aid they most need, though it be your example which leaves them far behind. If you give money, spend yourself with it, and do not merely abandon it to them. We make curious mistakes sometimes. Often the poor man is not so cold and hungry as he is dirty and ragged and gross. . . . There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the root, and it may be that he who bestows the largest amount of time and money on the needy is doing the most by his mode of life to produce that misery which he strives in vain to relieve. It is the pious slave breeder devoting the proceeds of every tenth slave to buy a Sunday's liberty for the rest.—Thorndike.

Undismayed.

"It's that horrid Mrs. Bore again and I know she wants to sell me tickets. Didn't you tell her, Jane, that I was not at home?" "Yes, ma'am, but she told me to come back and ask you when you would be in."

Small Boy Crowded Out.

The family was going riding, and Robert did not wish to go. A rather large uncle and a plump mother got into the back seat and he was told to get in the middle. "But," he said, grumbling, "I don't see any middle there."

MAKING RESOLUTIONS—AND SO FORTH



A little editorial talk about joys and sorrows, failures and achievements of the old year, and hopes and promises for the new : : Suggestions for a New Year's Eve party : : Also a few words by a doctor about "swearing off"

STANDING, as we are, upon the threshold of another year, many of us will, in fancy, go back over the twelve months that have passed and smile when we recall the "New Year resolutions" we made a year ago.

"Yes," a woman will say, "I made good resolutions last New Year's—my intentions were of the very best, but I did not have the will power to live up to them. Pray, what is the sense of making new ones?"

Well, forget last year's good resolutions and forget the past year entirely. Turn with hope and confidence to the great new year about to dawn, and—yes, make new good resolutions, as many of them as your brain can conjure up. Perhaps you did fail to keep the good intentions that made you so happy when you thought them out, but remember you are very human. Indeed, if we all were not so very human there would be absolutely no need of our ever making any kind of good resolutions.

Many of us will see the old year go with few regrets. It brought us, perhaps, an extra share of cares and disappointments, but are we not all the better and stronger for them, and will not the lessons they taught us stand us in good stead during the coming days? Dear friend, let me assure you that the difficulties and discouragements you surmounted during this still present year will without question make you a better and braver woman.

Welcome the new year; and by all means make new good resolutions. Every one of us needs to make them, because as I have said, we are all men or women.

In the hearts of most of us is a wonder, a curiosity, as to what the coming year may bring to us, whether good fortune or bad, sorrow or joy.

How many of us realize that the shaping of our fortunes during the year to come is in our hands? We do not need to depend on some imaginary fate to deal us out good luck or bad, as she will, if we have the earnestness and the desire to succeed.

All Desire Happiness.

But, after all, we want something more out of the year to come than just material success, welcome though that may be. Success is not always attended by happiness, and what we all desire in reality in 1917 is happiness, no matter what its source. To be contented and happy, that is the most we can wish for anyone, including ourselves. We can find true happiness by making and keeping the proper kind of New Year's resolutions.

The annual period for taking stock of our mental, spiritual and material resources finds most of us about where we were a year ago. We are living about the same. We are thinking about the same things.

We are animated by about the same expectations. When we are depressed it is because of the same old fears.

Some have learned something in the dying year. Some have not. Some hope to learn during the coming year.

Most of us spend the main portions of our lives in disappointment over the failure of that which we hoped might come to pass, balancing that with our washed-out pleasure that the worst of the things we feared did not happen. Some of us lack grip upon ourselves.

This annual stock-taking of our mentality should light the future of the coming year with the experience of the year just passed. If it doesn't do that we are not doing the job right.

The extent to which we have learned our lessons in the old year will be the measure in which we may gauge our expectations for the new year.

Turning the New Leaf.

From time immemorial it has been the custom of the forehanded good old-fashioned neighbor to square up his accounts, make new resolves, start cutting off certain bad habits, and "turn over a new leaf."

This is perfectly reasonable and natural. As the calendar marks a new cycle of time, so we in-

stinctively pause and make ready for a fair new start in life, even though we know that neither life nor time has any pause in its onward sweep.

It is probable that there are many more New Year's resolutions broken than are kept strictly through the year. Even so, there is good value in the making of them, in spite of what somebody has said about the downward road being paved with good intentions.

God new resolves are good for us any time, and a backward glance will not hinder our forward march. We cannot make too many efforts to prune off bad habits and such other dead wood as we find in our lives each year. All who have no faults, please stand!

However, it may be that the best New Year's resolve we can make this first holiday of 1917 will be to start the good habit of beginning new every morning.

After all the mistakes and disappointments and business battles that leave us tired and sour and sick, there comes a new day, so that we can begin over again and do better. If we start such a plan, the coming year and those following it will be happier new years.

New Year's Entertaining.

New Year's eve is an occasion of big celebration all over the country, every man and woman having a desire to speed the old year and welcome the new with some form of festivity. In the cities the hotels and restaurants make a big feature of this holiday, and each and every one advertises a special supper, with dancing, etc. This is all very well for those who do not have to count the pennies when seeking pleasure, for entertainment on New Year's eve comes high. Everyone wants to be amused, to greet the incoming twelve months with jollity and song, and the consequence is that the restaurants demand and get high prices for entertainment on that occasion.

There are no end of enjoyable ways of entertaining in one's own home on New Year's eve, and the woman who wishes to give pleasure to the family and friends on this occasion can do so at very little expense. All she needs is to ask a jolly crowd, to think out a clever scheme of table decoration, to arrange some forms of amusement and all will be well.

The woman who has fairly large rooms in her house will do well to select dancing as the chief form of entertainment for the evening. Dancing has lost none of its fascination for the majority of folks, and if it is made the big feature of the party it is safe to say that most of the guests will be well pleased. A small dance need not be an expensive affair. If you have a phonograph all is well; if not surely you have some friend from whom you can borrow an instrument for the evening. Dancing to a phonograph is just as good fun as dancing to an orchestra, provided one's partner is skillful at treading the "light fantastic."

When giving a New Year's eve party where dancing is to be the chief attraction of the evening it is a good idea to ask one's guests to come to the affair masked. This will lend mystery and excitement to the party and there will be great fun when the guests unmask as the hour strikes twelve and the new year is ushered in to the tune of many happy voices wishing each other "Happy New Year."

After the usual felicitations are over, supper should be served. This may be simple or elaborate, just as the hostess desires.

As for table decorations, a pretty centerpiece is to have a star made from a brilliant red poinsettia. In the middle of the star place a tall candlestick with a long white candle for the new year. Each point of the star should be marked by a low candlestick holding a shorter white candle. At the left of each plate have a spray of poinsettia. A pretty way to serve ice cream on this occasion would be to have it molded in the form of a candle and candlestick, the candle to be the vanilla cream and the candlestick to be of pistachio green. A tiny wax taper may be inserted at the top of each "candle" and lighted just as all are brought in.

A simple supper menu for New Year's eve might consist of hot bouillon (a thin soup) served in cups so that it is easy to hand around, chicken salad, sandwiches, ice cream, cake and coffee. The supper should be of the buffet order, the men guests helping the girls to the food they require. On this way the need of extra help is dispensed with and no additional expense is incurred on this score.

For those who do not care for dancing, cards, either bridge, "rum," fantan or some other popular game, will do to pass the hours before twelve.

Doctor Smith Talks.

Drinks, smokes and candy are not the only things to swear off on New Year's day. There are plenty of others, and for most of us the others are much more important, as fortunately the readers of this department are not victims of rum and tobacco.

New Year's resolutions, however, should not consist entirely of "swear offs." Too many "don'ts" are not advisable. "Do" is much better than "don't." Positive resolves are better than negative ones. If you "swear on" enough good habits it will not be necessary to "swear off" any bad ones. In other words, positive or constructive policies are better than negative or destructive ones. This applies to health just as much as to anything else in life. So, don't think you can "get by" simply by swearing off on one or two of your pet vices. Not at all. Your New Year resolutions, to be of any real value, must be constructive. You must decide not only to quit some things, but to begin some things, also.

Good resolves and swear offs may be grouped in pairs, and to advantage, it seems to me. Let's try it that way for a change.

I will take good care of my body.

I will not abuse it.

Held Up Your Right Hand.

This first pair of resolves looks pretty simple, but if you think a minute you will see that it includes a multitude of things. It actually is the whole thing in a nutshell. If you swear this particular pair of swears, and keep your oath, you will have health and happiness all the year, and your bill at the doctor's and the drug store will be so small that you can have an extra new dress instead. Let's see what it does include.

I will have "house cleaning" in the house I live in.

I will not procrastinate in instituting preparedness against disease.

This means that you will have the dentist go over your teeth with absolute regularity once or twice a year, but it also means that you have sense enough to know that the rest of your body is at least as important as your teeth and that you will have your doctor examine you from head to foot and fix up anything that needs it before any symptoms appear, which would simply mean that the process had gone on so far that correction would be much more difficult if not impossible. This would include an examination of the urine and the blood pressure, both of which should be investigated once every year in the case of every person over forty years of age.

I will keep clean inside and out.

I will avoid dirt.

This means not only the daily bath, but it means the flushing of the inside of the body so as to keep the sewers working. It means the drinking of about a gallon of fluid per day. It also means keeping the teeth scrupulously neat, cleansing them morning, noon and night, so that they will not infect every single mouthful of food you swallow. What is the use of pure-food laws if you save a choice selection of germs between your teeth so as to spread them on the food which Uncle Sam certifies is "pure."

It also means sufficient exercise to maintain bodily activity, so that circulation will keep things clean inside and prevent stagnation. It also means plenty of fresh air, so that the oxygen will oxidate, or burn up, all the debris and the poisons and the toxins which are being formed in every body all the time as the result of eating and of living.

Keep Smiling.

I will cultivate good cheer.

I will avoid anger, hate and moroseness. It doesn't hurt to smile. Remember that. It isn't hard work. It doesn't cost anything. It isn't simply for others that one should smile. It helps one's self even more than others. Sing! Whistle! Laugh! These things do not cost anything, either, and they help a great deal. We doctors know that if we can get a patient to laugh and sing it is pretty sure that he is on the mend and on it good and strong. We also know that anger, hate, suks, pessimism and all such horrid things are actually destructive. This is not Christian Science or any other sectarianism, but just plain common sense backed up by the latest laboratory experiments. All these mental conditions cause the formation of actually poisonous chemicals in the body and at the same time blinder the activities of normal health processes.

Let us reap earth's choicest blessings, for there's more of good than ill.

Upon this pure and spotless page, May kindness be traced, Then when we bid this year adieu, Naught would we see erased.

Condensed Plots.

"Why are you so fond of moving pictures?" "My parents wouldn't let me read novels in my youth. I'm making up for lost time."

VALUES OF CHEESE

WIDE RANGE IN FOOD PROPERTIES TO BE NOTED.

Presence of Cream Is Main Factor in Deciding the Degree of Nutritive Contained—As Prepared by Wise Chef.

Cheeses range in food value from a little over 400 to 2,585 calories. This latter food value is that of the cream cheeses, but the ordinary cream cheese has only 910 calories per pound.

This wide difference is due to the fact that a great deal of water may be dried out of a cheese, and also a great deal more cream be present in some cheese than others. There is practically no cream in cottage cheese, and the water content may be extremely high, as much as 77 per cent.

For this latter reason a cottage cheese with butter and cream and nuts has only the food value of a moderately rich cream cheese, but because a larger quantity of it is eaten as a portion there may be some danger of getting too much food for the body to care for, although the digestion itself is not so overworked.

Formerly flavor was put into cheese by different types of curing. Today the practice is to put all sorts of flavors in just before the cheese is served. When this leads to overeating it is bad practice. But notice what the chef does. When that final course of coffee and cheese comes to you, perhaps you will have served you something the size of a silver dollar, made like the old-fashioned small tart. In a thin little disk of cottage cheese he has made a little outer wall by putting the cheese through a pastry syringe, or "spitzer," and in the center is about half a teaspoonful of currant jelly.

Recently I chose from a public menu what proved to be a particularly palatable and filling conclusion to a light luncheon. Cottage cheese had been worked smooth with a little cream or rich milk, and to this had been added some chopped so fine as to be unrecognizable to the eye, and thoroughly mixed.—Exchange.

HELPFUL HINTS

Raisins and such things sometimes get dry and hard and lose a good part of their goodness. They would not do this if kept in glass jars.

Do not leave a spoon in anything you are cooking; it conducts away some of the heat and besides, is not good for the spoon.

If you cannot go to sleep at night, try holding a hot-water bottle to your stomach. It draws the blood to it and away from the brain.

Do not have hats and coats hung in the kitchen. They give out odors and impurities, as well as absorb odors from the cooking.

When the lower ends of your window shades get soiled and cracked, take them off the rollers, turn them the other end up and tack them on nicely, and they will last for a long time.

Two potatoes grated in a basin of warm water give better results than soap in washing delicate flannel or woolen goods, ribbons, etc.

Piano keys can be cleaned, as can any old ivory, by being rubbed with muslin dipped in alcohol. If very yellow, use a piece of flannel moistened with cologne water.

Tea Baskets.

Make a short sweetened pie crust, roll thin and partly bake in sheets. Before it is quite done take from the oven, cut in squares of four inches or so, take up two diagonal corners and pinch together, which makes them basket-shaped. Now fill them with whipped cream well sweetened and flavored and return to the oven for a few minutes.

Chicken Patties.

Cold chicken, milk, corn flour, pepper, salt and butter, puff paste. Mince cold chicken, stir it into white sauce made or milk thickened with corn flour and flavored with pepper, salt and butter. Line small patty pans with puff paste, bake first, then fill with the mixture and set in a hot oven for a few minutes to brown.

Coffee Custard.

Two cups milk, two tablespoonfuls ground coffee, three eggs, one-quarter cupful sugar, one-eighth teaspoonful salt, one-quarter teaspoonful vanilla. Scald milk with coffee and strain. Beat eggs slightly; add sugar, salt, vanilla and milk. Strain into individual molds, set in pan of hot water and bake until firm.

Nutmeg Toasties.

Whole wheat or white bread, butter, nutmeg.

Slice bread thin, cut in triangles, and toast. Paint each piece generously with melted butter, using a flat pastry brush. Sprinkle lightly with nutmeg. Set in hot oven three minutes. Serve with grapefruit marmalade.

For Wicker Furniture.

For cleaning wicker furniture make ready a pailful of warm suds with a little ammonia. Scrub with a stiff brush, rinse with a cloth dipped in clear warm water and place out in the open air to dry.

To Prevent Eggs Bursting.

To prevent eggs bursting while boiling, prick one end with a needle before placing in the water. This makes an outlet for the air, and keeps the shell from cracking.

The "Best" China.

Place pieces of flannel or of blotting paper between fine china plates. This will prevent them from being scratched.

Some May Like It.

The taste of mackerel dishes may be improved by a few drops of onion juice, but not enough to give a strong flavor.

The Old Year.

By HELEN AGNES HOLTON.

Silently the shades of evening,
Gather round this quiet spot,
And I watch the waning twilight,
In a reverie of thought.

Thinking of the year that's passing,
Of its hours dark and bright,
Wondering what record it carries,
In its winged rapid flight?

Will it tell a pleasing story,
Of earth's wayward children here?
Of good work done, and happy workers,
Busy all the living year?

Or will it tell of sadness,
Of virtues not yet won?
Of hours spent in idleness,
And of good deeds left undone?

Methinks I hear the echo
Beverbrate through the air,
Old Year goes laden with memories,
And burdens heavy to bear.

And borne on the ebbing tide,
Of death's cold mystic river,
Into that shadowy land,
Bids us farewell forever.

And now we hail the glad New Year,
And future joys await to be unfurled,
Another page in Time's great book be-
gun.

Another page of grace for all the
world,
Then as we wend our checkered way,
Mid summer's bloom and winter's
chill.